

## **Nothing Is Important**

### **Introduction:**

Every sermon has a subject; a preacher must have something to say. Today, the focus is on "nothing," highlighting the significance of "nothing" in different biblical contexts.

### **Four Important "Nothings" in the Bible:**

#### **The Nothing of Activity in Christian Service**

Conflict among Christians hinders the work of Christ. Examples of conflicts within churches, such as the one in Corinth, show that jealousy and quarrelling signify worldliness (1 Cor. 3:3). Conflict keeps bad company, leading to immoral behaviours and strife (Gal. 5:19-20). It is earthly, sensual, and devilish, as envy and selfish ambition lead to disorder and evil practices (James 3:14-16). Paul addresses the issue of motivations in Christian service, emphasizing humility and valuing others above oneself (Phil. 2:3). Selfish ambition and vain conceit undermine unity and love within the church. Acts of service should be motivated by genuine humility and the desire to glorify God. When divisions arise, it harms the church's witness and effectiveness, breaking the unity believers are called to maintain (Eph. 4:3). Conflicts can cause members to withdraw, diminishing community and support crucial for spiritual growth.

#### **Impact of Conflict in the Church:**

Strife tarnishes the church's reputation and hinders evangelism (John 13:35). It causes spiritual damage, leading to bitterness and resentment (Eph. 4:31-32), and grieves the Holy Spirit (Eph. 4:30, 1 Thess. 5:19). Conflict stems from pride, selfishness (Phil. 2:3-4), misunderstandings, doctrinal disagreements, cultural and personality differences, and unresolved hurt. Solutions include promoting humility and servanthood (Phil. 2:5-8), effective communication, forgiveness, reconciliation (Col. 3:13), and dependence on the Holy Spirit.

#### **The Nothing of Anxiety in Daily Life (Phil. 4:6):**

Philippians 4:4-7 emphasizes rejoicing in the Lord and being anxious for nothing. Anxiety destroys health, homes, dreams, and accomplishments. It drains today's strength and is often based on what might happen, with about 90% of worries never materializing. Faith in Christ overcomes anxiety. Philippians 4:6 advises rejecting anxiety and trusting in God's sovereignty. Positive practices include prayer, thanksgiving, and presenting requests to God, leading to the peace of God (Phil. 4:7). Practical steps to combat anxiety involve consistent prayer, meditating on Scripture, community support, and trusting God's sovereignty.

### **The Nothing of Almighty Power (Luke 1:37):**

Luke 1:37 states, "For with God nothing shall be impossible." Mary's challenge of giving birth to Jesus without a man exemplifies faith in God's power. Jeremiah also accepted this "nothing" (Jer. 32:27), recognizing that nothing is impossible for God. Accepting this truth chases doubts away. Examples of God's power include Creation (Genesis 1), the Exodus (Exodus 14), and the Resurrection (Matthew 28). Practically, reliance on God's power involves trusting Him to provide solutions and strength, and encouraging others by sharing God's miraculous interventions.

### **The Nothing of Apathetic Christianity (Rev. 3:17):**

Revelation 3:17 addresses the church in Laodicea, reprimanded for its lukewarmness and self-satisfaction. The Laodiceans, focused on material possessions, believed they were self-sufficient but were spiritually wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked. Apathetic Christians deceive themselves, thinking they are spiritually healthy while neglecting a vibrant relationship with God. Apathy leads to a shallow faith easily shaken by trials and neglect of essential spiritual disciplines. Apathy weakens the Christian witness and results in a church accomplishing nothing. Christians must examine their spiritual condition, acknowledge areas of apathy, and renew their commitment to God. Trusting in God's provision and engaging in acts of service revitalize faith.

### **Responding to the "Nothings" of the Bible:**

The Bible uses "nothing" to highlight spiritual truths and principles. Christians should regularly check their motivations, ensuring they act for God's glory and the good of others, not personal gain. They should be humble, serve others, be grateful for God's blessings, and trust in His power and promises. Cultivating a deep relationship with God through consistent prayer, Bible study, and encouraging others is vital. By responding to the "nothings" of the Bible, believers can put away strife, stop worrying, trust God, and overcome apathy, embracing God's power and living out their faith actively.

### **Let Nothing Hold Us Back from Full Commitment to Jesus:**

Believers are encouraged to embrace these biblical "nothings" and ensure they do not hinder their full commitment to Jesus, fostering a deeper, more vibrant relationship with Him and each other.